



## City of Kingsburg

1401 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631-1908  
(559)897-5821 (559)897-5568

Bruce Blayney  
Acting Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Michelle Roman  
Ben Creighton  
Staci Smith

Alexander J. Henderson  
City Manager

# Kingsburg Public Safety Committee Tuesday – February 9, 2016 4:00 P.M. City Council Chambers

- I. Call to order by Chair: (Council Member Ben Creighton)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Approve minutes from the January 12, 2016 Public Safety Committee meeting as prepared by City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard
- IV. Discussion of items listed below:
  - a. Continued discussion regarding Community Watch Signs
  - b. Continued discussion regarding Klaas Kids Foundation Print-a-thon
  - c. Discussion of Every Fifteen Minutes program
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjourn to next meeting, date and time as determined by Committee.

**Kingsburg Public Safety Committee**  
**January 12, 2016 – 4pm.**

**Call to order-** Council Member Ben Creighton, Chairman, called the Kingsburg Public Safety Committee Meeting to order at 4pm.

**Committee Members present:** Ben Creighton, Connie Delinger, Judy Pagel, Staci Smith, Adam Castaneda, Jennifer Dupras, Lennis Scheline, Wayne Osborne and Mark Bray.

**Committee Members absent:** Thom Sembritzki.

**City Staff present:** City Manager Alex Henderson, Police Chief Neil Dadian, Records/Dispatch Supervisor Cornia Padilla and City Clerk Abigail Palsgaard.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Lennis Scheline, seconded by Connie Delinger, to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2015 and November 10, 2015 Public Safety Committee meeting as prepared by City Clerk Sue Bauch. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Discussion of items listed below:**

**Kingsburg Police Department Dispatch**

City Manager Alex Henderson spoke about Chief Dadian being hired a year ago and that he took a look at everything with a fresh pair of eyes. Chief Dadian has a lot of experience with Fresno County Sheriff's Office ("FSO") and saw that the best solution for short staffing, aging expensive equipment and officer safety would be contracting with the Fresno Sheriff's Office for dispatch services. In June of 2015 the Chief Dadian met with the Finance Committee and they looked to see if they wanted to pursue further research into the possibility of contracting with FSO for dispatch. The Committee agreed that further research should be done.

The City Manager said that at the December 2016 Finance Committee they presented the information and the Committee did recommend taking the proposal to City Council. It was also discussed to present the proposal to the Public Safety Committee.

Chief Neil Dadian stated that he took a look at all operations and that there are some obvious advantages with outsourcing dispatch. Historically, Kingsburg has had its own 911 police dispatch. There is a single dispatcher working 8 hour shifts taking 911 calls, lobby calls and records processing. Currently the position is understaffed and the Police Department relies on OT shifts and per diem dispatchers from other departments to cover a whole shift and any other time off. Going to Fresno County Sheriff's Office for dispatch will provide a savings of over \$111,000. Currently the cost of police dispatch is \$24.17 per resident of Kingsburg. With the FSO proposal the cost is significantly less, \$14.61 per resident of Kingsburg.

Chief Neil Dadian spoke of the driving point, that a decision is critical. Computers and the software are greatly out of date. He stated the Kingsburg Police Department has no voice print recording system on phones or radio traffic. This is an important tool for investigations and prosecution. The District Attorney requests these records and we do not have the ability to provide it. Chief Dadian spoke about the



importance of officer safety. One important tool is GPS mapping for patrol cars. The equipment is available but the Police Department doesn't have the software nor the hardware to support it. The officer's portable radios are out dated and are not up to industry standards which also greatly effects officer safety. Chief Dadian also spoke about how the evidence hadn't been purged for over 13 years until recently and there is need for an employee to be in charge of evidence. That person would be the new Police Technician who would also take front counter traffic during lobby hours. Right now the lobby is open 24/7. Some police departments have lobbies that are open 24/7; others have office hours and a ring down line. With the new proposal, the outside of Kingsburg Police Department will also have a ring down line that will immediately connect the caller with an FSO dispatcher.

Chief Dadian touched on the perceived delays in dispatch if the Police Department switches over to FSO dispatch. He stated right now there is one person doing all counter, radio and phone traffic. Some people get placed on hold. It is going to happen if it is not an emergency. There is not going to be anymore wait time than there is right now. He said once the call is taken, the dispatcher will dispatch and with the computer system the officer will have in his unit, the call will come up right away. The calls will be answered and dispatched in a timely fashion. It is not the availability of dispatch, it is the availability of the police officer.

Cornia Padilla, Records and Dispatch Supervisor, spoke about how fire and medical calls gets transferred for American Ambulance to dispatch and the response time has been the same. Kingsburg Fire Department Capitan Wayne Osborne spoke about how they switched dispatchers years ago and that the public didn't notice a change in service. They switched because dispatch was overwhelmed and for safety reasons they needed a clearer line. American Ambulance dedicates one person to one incident. That one dispatcher is focused and handles the call. Because they are focused on one call they are able to listen more intently. Captain Osborne also spoke of the need for GPS for officer safety. If an officer is shot, there is no way to know exactly where they are located. Also, GPS can help dispatchers send the closest FSO deputy to respond to give aid. In his opinion, Kingsburg Police Department is behind the time. He doesn't like to see people lose jobs but you have to factor in an officers life over a job. Captain Osborne stated that there is no delay for fire EMS, and he doesn't see a delay to officers since they will have GPS. Delay is based on vehicles/availability, not dispatchers. He also recommends calling 911 from a landline because we are in a tri-county area.

Margie Smith, a citizen, asked for clarification regarding grant funding and the radio system. Chief Dadian explained the difference in the systems in the financial report. Margie Smith then stated that she believes the citizens of Kingsburg will all pitch in to cover the cost. She said she is worried that FSO dispatchers would be too busy to answer Kingsburg calls. She would like the City Council to put it open to a vote.

There was discussion about the inoperability of radios and the safety issue. Crestwood was also a concern. It was also discussed that locations are up to the officer, the dispatch's job is to pass on the information from the call.

Conni Delinger then asked about the cost of upgrading the police units and radios. Chief Dadian stated that the Sheriff agreed to purchase the radios with a five year pay back plan without interest. Ms. Delinger stated that this has been a long standing issue that should have been taken care of a long time ago.

City Manager Alex Henderson said we are talking about capital expenditures. We need to talk about personnel cost. We are already understaffed, health care goes up, and retirement goes up. He said he understands that things in-house are beneficial, but we have to talk about officer safety. Yes money is important. We have staff going away and that is important, equipment is going out and that is important, but really this is about officer safety and resident safety. The City Manager stated that there are lots of factors that have been considered. We have great employees but we can't even staff them for training.

After being asked about the Police Department being a safe house, Chief Dadian touched on the fact that the parking lot isn't a safe place to do child transfers. He said that they will still have the lobby for Craigslist exchanges during office hours. He also spoke about how FSO offered all current dispatchers jobs but none were interested.

A citizen then asked Chief Dadian if he would feel our officers were just as safe with new tech as with FSO? Chief Dadian replied that he would be comfortable in any either situation. Safety is an individual officer's responsibility. He said we mitigate with training, experience and knowledge.

Call time and officer response was discussed and FSO Lieutenant Brandon Purcell stated that he supervises FSO dispatch and that he lives here with his family and he would feel safe with the transition.

#### **Community Watch Signs**

Chairman Ben Creighton tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

#### **Klaas Kids Foundation Print-a-thon**

Chairman Ben Creighton tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

**Other Business- None**

**Adjourn-** At 5:57 pm Chairman Creighton adjourned to the next meeting, February 9, 2016 at 4pm.